

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for forming a thin film magnetic recording media, the method comprising:

generating magnetic nanoclusters;  
crystallizing the magnetic nanoclusters; and  
depositing the magnetic nanoclusters onto a substrate to form a thin film of magnetic particles thereon.

2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the magnetic nanoclusters are deposited onto the substrate after crystallized.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the substrate is not heated during deposition.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the magnetic nanoclusters are crystallized by being heated in gas phase.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising mixing the magnetic nanoclusters with a non-magnetic material.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising encapsulating the magnetic nanoclusters with the non-magnetic material.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the non-magnetic material comprises an organic solvent.

8. (Original) The method as recited in claim 6, wherein the non-magnetic material comprises a surfactant.

9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the mixing is performed before the magnetic nanoclusters are crystallized.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 9, wherein crystallizing of the magnetic nanoclusters comprises ~~heating~~ heating the magnetic nanoclusters and fixing the non-magnetic material onto the magnetic nanoclusters.

11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5, wherein the mixing is performed after the magnetic nanoclusters are crystallized.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising providing a magnetic field adjacent to the substrate to control the orientation of the magnetic particles upon deposition.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~[[11]]~~ 12, wherein each of the magnetic particles has an easy axis parallel to a surface of the substrate.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein the easy axes are parallel relative to each other.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~[[13]]~~ 12, wherein each of the magnetic particles has an ~~[[the]]~~ easy ~~axes are~~ axis perpendicular to ~~[[the]]~~ a surface of the substrate.

16. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising, during depositing of magnetic nanoclusters, depositing a non-magnetic material onto the substrate to mix with the magnetic nanoclusters.

17. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising rotating the substrate during deposition.

18-33. (Cancelled)